



Weekly Bible Study Resources

Linguistic Notes from the Weekly Bible Lesson

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Subject: Truth

Hebrew: ^{KJV} **Psalm 86:15** But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.¹

Any one of these attributes of Jehovah from Ex. 34:6 bears a full study in the lexicons or concordance, or Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. They figure prominently not only in Israel's scriptures, but in later rabbinic comment, and in Christian portraits of Jesus. I once asked a rabbi to translate *yhwh* for me, and after a moment's hesitation, he said quietly, "My Master, Compassionate".

Greek: ^{KJV} **Acts 5:25** Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.²

The most probable reason for the imprisonment of Peter and friends was that any Judean Messiah-figure was a threat to Roman rule, and the Temple officials were held responsible for keeping the people under control. So one finds in v. 24 the captain of the temple (who would have been a Roman military commander stationed at the Antonia Fortress overlooking the Temple) and the High Priest (the chief Judean religious post) worried together about what would develop when these men escaped from prison. The real concern was that they might stir political sedition and strife among the people of Jerusalem, sparking a revolt against Rome. These most serious deliberations are interrupted by the comic news: those men you locked up are standing in the Temple teaching. Due and august process was baffled by inability to hold a prisoner. They do proceed, but are in a strange vacuum of power as Peter retorts--we ought to obey God not men. The emerging kingdom is of a different order. This is the correct backdrop for Gamaliel's pleading not to interfere.

¹ R95 **Psalm 86:15** Mas tú, Señor, Dios misericordioso y clemente, lento para la ira y grande en misericordia y verdad,

² R95 **Acts 5:25** Pero viniendo uno, les dio esta noticia: "Los hombres que pusisteis en la cárcel están en el Templo y enseñan al pueblo".